



CITY COUNCIL

Public Works Committee

Monday, December 15, 2008
Meeting Report

Committee Members Attending: M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, Chair; D. Sterner; S. Fuhs

Others Attending: L. Kelleher, C. Younger, D. Hoag

Capital Program Update

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the Charter requirement for the Administration and/or Auditor to provide quarterly reports on the existing capital projects and provide a final audit of completed projects. She stated that to date this reporting has not been done.

The Public Works Committee requested that reports on capital projects, project status and expenditures, begin at the January Public Works Committee meeting.

Bernhart's Park and Dam

Ms. Hoag stated that the Department has decided to bring in a different engineering firm who specializes in dam projects and who has been approved by the PaDEP. They are currently exploring methods to drain the lake in a controlled fashion. She stated that the dam valves have been inoperable since the mid 1970's. She added that the outlet pipe has been permanently closed with concrete.

The Public Works Committee suggested that the Administration meet with Muhlenberg Township officials to determine the future use and maintenance of the dam. The Administration was directed to follow up accordingly. After the City and Township officials meet, both should arrange for a public meeting for those who reside around the park to obtain their input on the future use of the park.

East Ends Lease

Mr. Younger stated that conversation with the East Ends Association has started. He distributed a copy of the Easy Ends Bylaws, list of officers and maintenance expenditures for the building. He suggested that the Committee become familiar with the bylaws. The Committee requested that Mr. Younger provide a report on the membership requirements.

Consent Decree

Ms. Hoag reported on the status of the project management and the progress on reviewing potential funding avenues. She stated that Value Engineering meetings are currently underway.

Ms. Hoag explained the review process undertaken by the project management team. She explained the comparison of the green impact versus the carbon footprint of the plant.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz requested that Council be provided with a complete report of the progress and outcomes of the current phase and be provided with opportunity for input before the next phase of the project begins.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz inquired how the Administration plans to provide public education to the surrounding neighborhood. Ms. Kelleher replied that it has been about 8-10 years since the Administration has provided any communication with the surrounding neighborhood, other than newspaper articles. She suggested that Council and the Administration begin more direct education through a combination of neighborhood meetings and a newsletter. She stated that in the past meetings with the surrounding neighborhoods were very well attended and effective. Ms. Hoag agreed, noting the attendance and involvement of the neighbors during the consideration of the Angelica environmental park.

Ms. Hoag stated that other Pennsylvania communities are also involved in consent decrees for their wastewater treatment and water systems. Mr. Kelleher stated most of the projects are much smaller in scale and in cost than the Reading project.

The Public Works Committee adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher City Clerk

FOLLOW-UP ISSUES

- Quarterly and final reports on all capital projects – R. Hottenstein
- Schedule meeting with Muhlenberg Township and with citizens on the future use and maintenance of Bernhart's Park – R. Hottenstein
- Report on East Ends membership requirements – C. Younger
- Newsletter and public meetings to educate citizens about the WWTP project – C. Jones and D. Hoag